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1. While a certain amount of the contents of the publications of the Viet Nam News Service in Bangkok is written locally, by far the greater amount of material is received directly from the headquarters of the Ho Chi Minh government, chiefly by radio. When the openly anti-American and anti-Chinese Nationalist propaganda began to arrive about three months ago, Xom, Viet Minh Chief in Bangkok, on his own initiative instructed that it be omitted from publication in Bangkok. Xom then sent an urgent radio message to the Viet Nam Government requesting its approval of his modifying this type of propaganda before publication. Ho's headquarters gave him authority for using his discretion in the handling of the material.
2. Similar anti-western propaganda was received by the Rangoon office of the Viet Nam News Service. The Rangoon office published it fully and without re-editing. When Xom received copies of the Rangoon publications, he was seriously concerned and radioed Hoang Nguyen, chief of the Viet Nam News Service in Rangoon, telling him to discontinue the inclusion of this type of propaganda. He also radioed the Viet Nam Government explaining his action and requesting a clear-cut policy for both Bangkok and Rangoon offices of the Viet Nam News Service.\*
3. Hoang Nguyen, chief of the Rangoon VNNS, arrived in Bangkok in July for a conference. The conference was presided over by Hong, chief of the political canbros in Thailand and reputedly the actual chief of the secret Viet Minh Tong Bo in Thailand. Xom's views on the handling of anti-western propaganda material prevailed and it was decided that such propaganda could be suppressed or diluted in the future both in Bangkok and Rangoon, except for important official announcements by Ho himself or by high government officials. Generally speaking the only clearly anti-American or pro-Communist items that would be permitted to appear in the publications of the Viet Nam News Service would be direct quotations from established news services such as Reuters, United Press, New China News Agency, etc. which would be issued as straight news items.
4. At this conference it was also decided that the Viet Nam News Service, particularly the Thai and Vietnamese language versions in Bangkok and the Burmese language version in Rangoon would be most careful not to publish anything offensive to the established governments. In Bangkok, for example, Phibun's speeches are accurately reported with only inoffensive comment added. For

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example, when Phibun announced that certain professions would be "reserved" for Thais only, the Viet Nam News commented: "Our fellow-countrymen should take careful note of this, and prepare themselves for other professions as we must always follow the Field Marshal's wishes with care."

\* 25X1A Comment: The importance of Xom's position is indicated by the fact that he was empowered to give Hoang Nguyen interim instructions pending clarification from Viet Nam Government headquarters.

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